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To Kevin Brooks,

On behalf of my family, I am writing to signal our support for your attempts last year to expand highspeed broadband services to Bradley County. It is clear that you and your like-minded colleagues in the State House understand the vital need for access to services like those provided by the Electric Power Board of Chattanooga. The economic future of our county and our state depend on widespread access and use of highspeed Internet connection, a goal that is shared by EPB. While dismayed at hearing word last year of the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals' decision to overturn the FCC decision under Tom Wheeler, we recognize the need for change to occur within the state legislature. There is a present need for an amendment to the TCA §7-52, which currently does not allow municipal utilities to provide services outside their "electric system service areas." We fully endorse legislation that removes restrictions on the geographic limits of municipal utility services and the ability of power cooperatives to provide broadband access. As our representative, we commend your dismissal of lobbying efforts in the past, which serve no other purpose than to create and maintain ISP monopolies, at the expense of Internet users across the county and state. Many, if not most, of your constituents do not understand the economic and physical infrastructure of the Internet, to little fault of their own. Nevertheless, I am confident that I speak for numerous thousands of broadband consumers in your district when I say that we demand a competitive market for Internet service, competition that is evidently threatening to existing ISPs. Any professed disciple of laissez-faire economics must oppose the propping up of ISP monopolies in rural areas, a serious problem around the country.

While we are not Tennessee natives, we like to call Cleveland our adopted home, and we intend to live here throughout the 21st century. If you desire for our local community the same prosperity that is enjoyed in cities like Chattanooga due, in part, to EPB services—and I sincerely hope, and believe, you do—I encourage you to press forth with efforts like HB 1303 (2015) in the future. Furthermore, while the impending FCC decisions relating to net neutrality are not immediately your domain, I ask you to support Tennessee legislation that preserves the spirit of American liberty in the form of an Internet free from government censorship, uninformed collection and sale of personal data, bandwidth throttling, network bias and data discrimination. The Internet is the bulwark of worldwide economic growth, a platform that serves American interests of promoting and defending democracy across the world, and a key resource of uncensored information as we enter the heart of this century. Like access to water and electricity, it is a public utility and should be regulated as such. In the name of certain virtues relevant to our day and age, namely the principles of meritocracy, the presumption of equality, civic participation in the form of opinion dissemination, bottom-up government, voluntary cooperation and the right to assembly, I wholeheartedly support a free Internet, and I bid you do the same. Is that not what the Founding Fathers desired, to *promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity*?